

Testimony in Support of House Bill 5412
by Eugene A. DeJoannis
280 Scott Dr, Manchester, CT 06042

To the Connecticut State Energy & Technology Committee:

Dear Energy and Technology Committee member,

I am writing to encourage your support for the bill currently before your committee, HB 5412, "An Act Concerning Shared Clean Energy Facilities." The majority of Connecticut homeowners cannot access affordable clean energy because they do not have a suitable site for renewable energy on their own property.

I have been very active in the recently completed Solarize Manchester program, and in talking to residents found many who could not participate because they did not own their home or had restrictions on outside changes, or had a shaded roof or an older roof that would need replacement before the PV panels wore out.

This act will enable all energy customers to participate in shared clean energy facilities and receive credit on their utility bill for their portion of the clean energy produced. It would include many more than are now able to participate in our state's solar programs.

Passage of the act will benefit renters, condo-owners, and homeowners with tree-shaded or otherwise unsuitable homes and enable them to directly benefit from the state's clean energy programs they contribute into. It would also enable us to end the policy of under-utilizing well-situated roofs because the current residents do not use enough power to justify covering the entire roof with solar panels. I would like to see all well-suited roofs used to their maximum capacity and the excess capacities sold to other neighborhood residents who cannot install solar for the reasons above.

It also benefits everyone in the state by reducing the need to run expensive, low-efficiency, polluting power plants at peak times when solar works the best. Best of all, it stabilizes for the long term the cost of electricity for CT residents.

Thank you.

Eugene A. DeJoannis